

LegaSea Update 9

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As summer approaches the LegaSea team are preparing to attend public events, fishing contests and club gatherings. If you are having a special occasion, not necessarily a fishing event, please consider inviting a LegaSea representative to give a brief presentation on what we are trying to achieve.

There are many people in our community who want to make a positive difference and LegaSea offers them the opportunity to contribute to the vision of 'more fish in the water for future generations'.

To maximise the value gained from being at your event we have a dedicated event coordinator. Tim Taylor is a multi-tasker, very handy at fishing and keen to talk with your crew about LegaSea. Contact tim@legasea.co.nz or call him on 027 6689904 to arrange his attendance at your upcoming event.

Why do we need LegaSea?

Fishing, diving, swimming, surfing and beachcombing are Kiwi traditions that depend on having a healthy marine environment. If we want our kids, and theirs, to enjoy abundant fisheries and clean seas then we need to start working on that now.

LegaSea is seeking a \$20 contribution from anyone interested in achieving an abundant future. And the good news is that you don't have to be a fisher, diver or surfer to contribute. You just need to care about the type of legacy we leave for our children.

These days people are busy keeping their jobs and lives intact. Many do not have the time or energy to commit to making sure there are plenty of fish in the sea, even though they know it's necessary for our national wellbeing. If this is you then LegaSea makes it easy for you to dip into your pocket, make a contribution, and let the hardworking team get on with achieving the goal of abundance.

What is LegaSea?

LegaSea is designed to raise money from the public to achieve success in four areas:

- **ADVOCACY**
- **RESEARCH**
- **EDUCATION**
- **working TOGETHER**

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council has a variety of volunteers and professionals who are contributing their time and expertise in these areas, but what they lack most is your support. A simple \$20 (or more) from you will go a long way to ensuring this team has sustainable funding. They desperately require resources to advocate your interests in the many forums that are making decisions that affect our ability to access a thriving marine environment.

For example, the new super-Ministry for Primary Industries has a goal to grow and protect New Zealand and wants to achieve that by, in part, maximising export opportunities. What about our wellbeing?

With retail prices being indexed to export returns fewer families are eating a healthy, freshly caught fish for dinner. It is vital for our social and cultural wellbeing that we maintain reasonable access to food from the sea.

Also, many of our inshore fish stocks are well below where they should be so it is not in our national interest to airfreight more of our popular fish offshore.

Realistically, if we want to grow our national wealth and restore some of our 'clean, green' image we would be better off implementing strategies that increase our wild fish populations.

The NZ Sport Fishing Council has some simple, innovative conservation ideas that will contribute to making Aotearoa a better place to live. To get there we need to wake the sleeping giant – that is the public who care about the sea that surrounds us, the life within it and our children’s future. You can contribute to this vision by making a stand. Contribute at www.legasea.co.nz or call 0800 LEGASEA (534 273).